



Technical Update GA-2010-01

February 11, 2010

GA Financial Aid Transcript (FAT) Processing

This information is intended for the person in your organization who is responsible for working with the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). Please ensure the appropriate person receives this update.

Introduction

The purpose of this Technical Update is to inform Guaranty Agencies (GAs) of National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) modifications to the GA Financial Aid Transcript (FAT) process for 2010-2011. Using the FAT batch record layout, GAs have the ability to request Financial Aid History (FAH) information for individual borrowers in a batch file format. This Technical Update replaces GA Technical Updates 2004-02 and 2007-07 that previously provided information about the process for requesting FAH data and the corresponding results.

Security Procedures

GA FAT Batch files contain borrowers' Personally Identifiable Information (PII). We would like to remind users that this information is confidential and must only be used for reasons deemed acceptable for establishing a borrower's Title IV federal student aid eligibility.

Electronic files must be encrypted and password protected. Printed materials must be marked confidential and stored in a location that is out of plain sight and not easily accessible.

Processing Reminders

As a reminder, if the requesting GA is not currently reporting on a loan or is not found in the borrower's NSLDS history, FAH data results will not be provided in response to the GA FAT file request. When receiving the FAH data results, the aggregate information is not included so GAs and schools are encouraged to utilize the [NSLDS Professional Access Web site](http://www.nsldsfa.gov) (www.nsldsfa.gov) to obtain the most accurate calculated aggregate data. Also, the FAH Loan Record layout (Record

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Type 5) will continue to contain all loan data (including Perkins Loans) on NSLDS for the requested borrower.

GA Financial Aid Transcript (FAT) Record Layout Updates

Updates were made to some of the entity attribute definitions for clarity or consistency throughout the record layouts. However, the following substantial changes have been made to the Extract File Layouts:

FAH Main Record Layout (Record Type 1):

- Updated to reflect changes in the following entity attributes:
 - Loan Change Flag (old field position 158) – deleted attribute and definition. This field now is merged with the previous old filler field (old positions 78-157).
 - Filler (old field positions 78-157) – increased field by two from 80 bytes to 82 bytes long (new positions 78-159).

FAH Loan Record Layout (Record Type 5):

- Updated to reflect changes in the following entity attributes:
 - Contact Type (field positions 120-122) – added two new Contact Type codes:
 - RDS = U.S. Department of Education
 - DDP = Disability Data Provider
 - Loan Change Flag (old field position 173) – deleted attribute and definition. This field now is merged with the next filler field (old positions 174-260).
 - Filler (old field position 174-260) – increased field by one from 87 bytes to 88 bytes long (new positions 173-260).

The updated GA FAT Batch record layouts are in Attachment A.

Attachment A: GA FAT Batch Record Layout

If you have any questions, please contact the NSLDS Customer Support Center at 800/999-8219 or by e-mail at NSLDS@ed.gov.